

Application No: 10/802,025
Our reference: 3195CIP

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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for removing mortar from a brick, comprising:
providing a computer controlled automated system which includes the steps of:
providing a first device for holding a brick;
holding the brick with said first device, ~~and in separate steps;~~
cutting mortar from the rear of the brick;
cutting mortar from opposing ends of the brick; and
cutting mortar from the top and bottom of the brick,
wherein the step of cutting mortar from the rear of the brick occurs at a
time that is different from the step of cutting mortar from the top and
bottom of the brick.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of determining the interface between the brick and mortar.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of providing a second device for determining the position of the brick and determining with said second device the position of the brick.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said second device is an imaging device.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, claim further comprising the step of imaging the front face of the brick.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of providing a first cutting device for cutting mortar from the rear of the brick, and cutting mortar from the rear of the brick with said first cutting device.

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7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of providing a second cutting device for cutting mortar from the opposing ends of the brick, and cutting mortar from the opposing ends with said second cutting device.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of providing a third cutting device for cutting mortar from the top and bottom of the brick and cutting mortar from the top and bottom of the brick with said third cutting device.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein said second cutting device is a first pair of saws.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said third cutting device is a second pair of saws.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of providing a first means for positioning said second cutting device for cutting mortar from opposing ends of the brick, and a second means for positioning said third cutting device for cutting mortar from the top and bottom of the brick.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said first and second positioning means moves said second cutting device in three dimensional space and said second positioning means moves said third cutting device in three dimensional space.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of providing an imaging device for determining the position of the brick and determining with said imaging device the position of the brick, and wherein said first positioning means, said second positioning means and said imaging device are disposed above the brick.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of positioning said first and second cutting devices according to the position of the brick as determined by said imaging device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further including the step of providing at least one means for transporting the brick between said first, second and third cutting devices.

16 (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of stacking bricks onto a pallet and wherein said first device is a clamping device.

17. (Previously Presented) An automated brick recycling apparatus for removing mortar from a brick, comprising:
a first cutting device for cutting mortar from the rear of the brick;
a second cutting device for cutting mortar from an end of the brick;
a third cutting device for cutting mortar from a top of the brick;
an imaging device for determining the orientation of the brick;
at least one transport device for transporting the brick from said first cutting device to said second and third cutting devices; and
a computer, wherein said second cutting device, said third cutting device, said transport device, and said imaging device are automated and controlled by said computer and wherein the first cutting device is not controlled by said computer.

18. (Original) The brick recycling apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a movable trailer wherein said trailer houses said automated brick recycling apparatus.

19. (Original) The brick recycling apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said first, second and third cutting devices are saws.

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20. (Original) The brick recycling apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said second cutting device and said third cutting device are movable in three dimensions.